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My Hero Academia & The Importance of Hands and Connections

[An Unorganized Thread]

Nov 15, 2021 · 1:08 AM UTC

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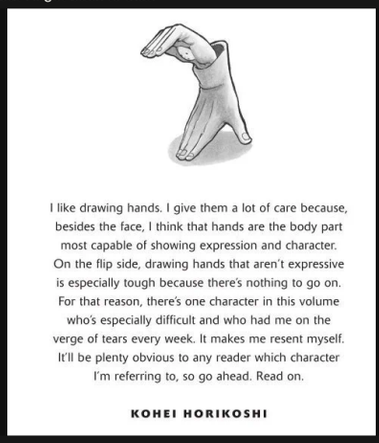
In Volume 2, Horikoshi states that he likes drawing hands. He finds them to be the most expressive part of a person. He also notes a certain character was especially tough for him, but I'll get back to that.

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Hands have time and time again been the focal point of important events in My Hero Academia, due to how expressive Horikoshi finds them to be, however, there is another meaning to the usage of them.

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MHA has one big theme that not a lot of people talked about until recently: Connections. Midoriya is a pertinent example of somebody who thrives off the connections he has formed in the story.

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Horikoshi uses hands as a way to express connection, and in Midoriyas case, a way to show how far he's willing to go for those connections. He earned his hands scars showing Todoroki that his power is his own, and his arm scars protecting a childs life.

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Midoriyas arm scars can represent the connections he has made thus far, and I feel this was visually reinforced during the Overhaul arc with Eri stating how kind his hand felt, with an explicit focus on Midoriyas scarred arm.

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We can see even further the importance of hands and reaching out in an attempt to make a connection, going back to his childhood with Bakugo. In the past, Bakugo would always slap his hand away, rejecting that bond.

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But as the two of them had their relationship grow, Bakugo would be willing to accept the connection that Midoriya had always been trying to make as a child. (Volume 29 Cover)

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Villain Hunt arc feels like a culmination of My Hero Academia's thematic emphasis on hands, reaching out, and connection, as we see with Nagant, the 2nd and 3rd user of OFA, and Midoriya himself.

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Flashing forward a little bit, we see Lady Nagant struggle with the metaphorical blood on her hands, as she pulls her hand back in from shaking the hands of her fans. Almost as if she is afraid of forming those connections.

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But the following chapter, we see that same kind boy reach out and grab Nagants literally bloody hand, forming the connection between Midoriya and Nagant, regardless of what happened after a couple page turns.

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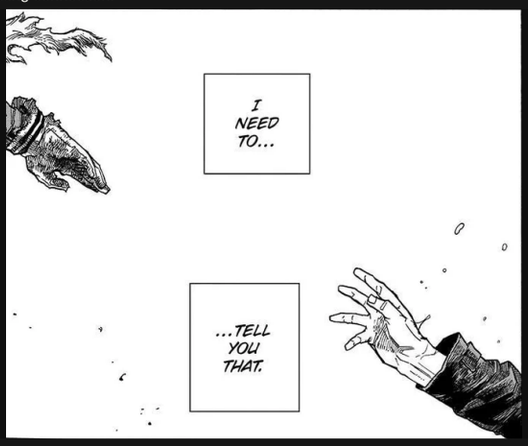
Chapter 317 represents Deku and his self destructive mindset at his absolute bottom, which is visually represented by Midoriya, for the first time in the series, not reaching out his hand to somebody else, and putting himself in the shoes of rejecting connection.



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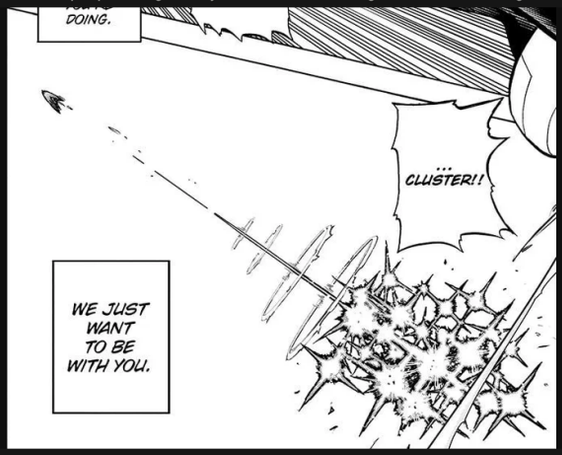
And a few chapters later, we see the fruits of Deku's labours for the past 320 chapters. All of the bonds and relationships Deku has formed over the series culminate in people doing exactly what he's been doing to others for so long.

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His classmates give it their all to reach his heights, and to reach his hand. While it not FORM a connection, it is definitely used to EMPHASIZE the bond that they all hold.

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But, what about the opposite situation? Let's talk about who Horikoshi struggled with the most.

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Tomura Shigaraki was a character covered in hands, but initially too bratty and childish to form real connections with people. His hands could serve the function of him holding onto those previous connections he had, with his family. He is shackled by them in a way.

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We see as time goes on and Tomura grows and evolves, he begins to form strong bonds with the League of Villains and the people he surrounds himself with. Simultaneously, he begins to wear his hands less and less, until shunning them alltogether.

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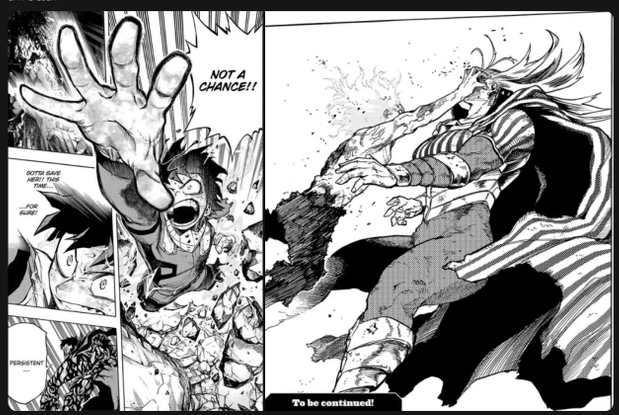
Izuku Midoriya, a boy who uses his power to reach out and form bonds, and Tomura Shigaraki, a man who uses his power to reach and quite literally decay bonds. Shigaraki is incapable of some of the things we have seen Midoriya do in this thread.

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Tenko Shimura was taken in by AFO, groomed, and due to his Quirk, basically denied the possibility of reaching out and forming bonds in the way Midoriya does. The League of Villains in some ways, all suffer from a lack of human connection.

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Connections in My Hero Academia are extremely important, and as we can see from both Midoriya & Shigaraki, all it takes is one person to reach their hand out in order to alter the course of events.

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Hawks' Dialogue in 325 reinforces this, when he refers to One for All as a power that builds these bonds, connections, and relationships.

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How will this all end up? Find out when MHA ends probably! thanks for reading this rambly ass post. I was just typing tbh

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